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DIGEST ^{OF} SWEDEN

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Five Swedish stamps, with these motifs: 1: The Three Crowns in the national coat of arms. 2: King Gustavus Adolphus. 3: The Royal Palace in Stockholm. 4: One of the lions in front of the Royal Palace. 5: Holy Trinity in Wilmington, oldest of five "Old Swedes" churches, which today are historic monuments of the Swedish seventeenth-century settlements on the Delaware. — Cover, by L. Bauer, shows wood anemones, harbingers of spring practically throughout Sweden.

PAM (*57)

DIGEST OF SWEDEN

by ALLAN KASTRUP

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THE LAND

Sweden comprises the southern and eastern parts of the Scandinavian peninsula, including the islands of Gotland and Öland in the Baltic, or "East Sea." The country covers about 173,000 square miles, which makes it one of the largest in Europe. From north to south it extends nearly a thousand miles, or two-fifths of the distance between New York and Los Angeles. In both outline and size Sweden resembles California.

The scenery ranges from undulating, fruitful plains in the south to rugged mountains and plateaux in the northwest and far north. Broad sweeps of pine and spruce, with frequent sprinklings of birch, cover most of the northern two-thirds. Such leaf-bearing trees as alder, aspen and willow grow in the valleys. Great parts of the south are also forested, and there beech groves too are found, as well as oaks, elms, maples, etc.

While abounding in hills and highlands, Sweden is not a mountainous country. It rises gradually as it approaches the Norwegian border most of which runs along an irregular, almost treeless range. About one-eighth of the Swedish territory is, in fact, above the timber line. Even in the north, however, the mountains are of only medium height, the highest reaching about 7,000 feet.

Rivers and lakes make up nearly one-tenth of the entire area. Because of its large bodies of water, the south-central section is sometimes called the "lake district." Vänern, in the west, is the largest lake in Europe outside Russia. It drains into an arm of the North Sea by the short, navigable Göta River. Next in size are the lakes Vättern and Mälaren.

Mighty, swift-flowing rivers cut through the northern two-thirds of Sweden, running from the mountains on the Norwegian border toward the southeast. They empty into the Gulf of Bothnia, which separates Sweden from Finland. North of this elongated bay a 335-mile-long frontier follows a river most of the distance.

The basic foundation of Sweden consists for the most part of primitive rock, such as granite. While in the south the coast is sandy, like that of Denmark, it is mostly craggy farther north. Large stretches of the hilly mainland are protected from the open sea by fringes of rockbound islands. The widest such belts are off Stockholm and on the west coast outside and north of Göteborg, or Gothenburg.

CLIMATE

The Scandinavian peninsula extends as far north as Alaska, but its climate throughout is greatly tempered by the Gulf Stream, which brings warm water from the Gulf of Mexico, and by the prevailing westerly winds. The southern half of Sweden enjoys, in fact, about the same climate as New England. In summer people dress much the same as they do in most parts of America. Winter in southernmost Sweden is usually too mild for skiing, but in the northern two-thirds there is, as a rule, an abundance of snow. Only in the extreme north does it get as cold as, for instance, in northern Minnesota.

Projecting so far north, Scandinavia offers a phenomenon not seen in America, except in the extreme north of Canada and Alaska. It has given northern Sweden, together with Norway and Finland, the complimentary title of the "Land of the Midnight Sun." In the one-seventh of Sweden that lies beyond the Arctic Circle, the sun never sets for up to two months each summer, or from the middle of May until the latter part of July. During a similar period in winter, on the other hand, the sun never appears above the horizon. The communities in this region then use electric light both day and night. Even in southern Sweden the effect of this unbalance is felt. In the middle of winter dusk begins long before the afternoon is over. Conversely, at midsummer the sun sets for only five or six hours, and a luminous twilight lingers through the night.

At the height of summer, differences in climate between the south and north almost vanish. Sweden's northernmost harbor, that of Haparanda, situated where its land border with Finland begins, is, as a rule, closed to navigation by ice from November until the end of May. But six or eight weeks after the thaw, people go swimming in water as warm as that along the country's southern shores.

On the largest islands in the Baltic, Gotland and Öland, the climate is also tempered by the sea after it has been warmed by the sun. There summer, as in southernmost Sweden, brings thick carpets of clematis, luxuriantly green walnut trees, and acacias showered with flowers. On Gotland ripe mulberries have been picked in October, and sheep can graze out of doors all winter. The annual mean temperature is the same as in the extreme south, or about 45 degrees Fahrenheit, compared with 27 in the far north.

PEOPLE

Sweden's population is approximately 7,500,000, or almost the same as those of Denmark and Norway combined. Its density averages 48 per square mile, as compared with about 60 for the United States, except Alaska. Nearly 90 per cent of the Swedish people live, however, in the southern half of the country.

The most significant change in the distribution of population during the past century has been the movement from the farm to city. Industrialization began in earnest later than in many other countries of Western Europe, and until about 1900 most Swedes were farmers, farmworkers, or fishermen. Today this group makes up only about 15 per cent. Approximately 50 per cent earn their living from manufacturing, forestry, and mining, around 25 per cent from commerce or transportation, and 10 per cent from public services or the professions.

While during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth Sweden was a country of heavy emigration, directed chiefly toward North America, there has been an annual surplus of immigrants ever since the early nineteenth-thirties. Most of these newcomers have either escaped from political oppression or been attracted to Sweden by reports of higher living standards. On the whole they have been assimilated without difficulty, and the basic homogeneity of the Swedish people has not been affected. Although never particularly numerous, immigrants have played important roles in Swedish history. In the seventeenth century, newcomers from the Low Countries, England, Scotland, Germany, etc., contributed greatly to the country's economic development. Even today, about 40 per cent of the family names on the rolls of the Swedish House of Nobles are of foreign origin. This ancient nobility has no special privileges; the last one was given up in 1866.

Aside from recent arrivals, the only racial minorities in Sweden are some 10,000 Lapps, who live in the north, and about 30,000 Finns spread close to the common border, who still speak Finnish. For many centuries, on the other hand, Swedish has been the mother tongue of part of Finland's population. The Lapps are full-fledged Swedish citizens, but in peacetime exempt from military service. Only about five hundred families are still nomadic and live by raising reindeer.

CITIES

Only about a dozen of Sweden's 130-odd cities have more than 50,000 inhabitants. The largest are Stockholm, with some 800,000 and a further 300,000 in the suburbs, Gothenburg, on the west coast, with about 400,000, and Malmö, the main port and commercial center in the south, around 225,000.

Stockholm covers a dozen islands, washed either by the Baltic Sea or by Lake Mälaren. The Royal Palace, the House of Parliament, and some government offices face the salt-water side. Mirrored in the fresh water of Lake Mälaren is the City Hall, which has become as much of a symbol of the Swedish capital as the Eiffel Tower is of Paris. Gothenburg was founded in 1621, or nearly four hundred years after Stockholm, and was placed at the country's only outlet, at that time, to the Atlantic. From its port the first shiploads of Swedish colonists sailed for Delaware Bay in 1637, only 17 years after the English Pilgrims had arrived in Provincetown and Plymouth. Today Gothenburg is the home port of the Swedish American Line and other shipping companies.

Both Gothenburg and Malmö are great shipbuilding centers and sites of other important industries, but old-time canals and extensive parks give them airiness and charm. The next largest cities are Norrköping, a textile and machine producer, Hälsingborg, a thriving southern port, Upsala, a university site, with an ancient cathedral, Västerås, home of the heaviest electrical industry, Örebro, a shoe town, Borås, another textile headquarters, Linköping, a medieval episcopal seat, where jet planes and guided missiles are now built, and Eskilstuna, known for its cutlery and other fine hardware. The largest cities north of Upsala are Gävle, an old shipping outlet, Sundsvall, capital of the leading cellulose district, Luleå, an ore port, and Kiruna, entirely devoted to iron mining.

The oldest cities are tiny Sigtuna, north of Stockholm, which in the twelfth century was Sweden's largest urban community, the almost equally diminutive Kungälv, near Gothenburg, the southern cathedral and university town of Lund, and Visby, on the island of Gotland, one of Europe's best preserved Hanseatic trading towns of the early Middle Ages. Of even earlier origin, however, is Upsala: around 500 A.D. its beginnings were the starting point of a political evolution that gradually led to the foundation of Sweden.

PROVINCES

Sweden is a unitary national state, and not a federation like the United States or Canada. For administrative purposes it is divided into twenty-four districts plus the city of Stockholm, each headed by a governor, who is appointed by the central government. Local self-rule is organized by such districts, called "län," as well as by smaller units.

The ancient division into provinces, or "landskap," has nothing to do with the current systems of administration or self-government, but it is, nevertheless, of more than historical significance. Traditions and geography give most of the twenty-five provinces a distinctive character, or at least a certain flavor of their own, and the Swedish people often think in terms of these older units. Local patriotism, for instance, usually ends at their borders. In many cases these are identical with those of the "län." Until the later Middle Ages, Sweden was only a loose confederation of provinces which made their own laws and had no common authority except that they recognized the same king.

Another old tradition divides the country into three main parts, Götaland in the south, Svealand in the center, and Norrland in the north. Of these terms, only the last one is now generally used.

Götaland, which is the most densely populated part, includes the provinces of Skåne, Blekinge, Halland, Småland, Östergötland, Västergötland, Bohuslän, and Dalsland, as well as the Baltic islands of Öland and Gotland. Svealand consists of Värmland, Dalarna or Dalecarlia, Västmanland, Närke, Södermanland, and Uppland. Some 1,500 years ago the eastern part of Svealand, that around Lake Mälaren, formed the nucleus of the Swedish realm. Norrland constitutes more than half of the Swedish domain, but contains only ten per cent of the population. It is made up of six provinces along the Gulf of Bothnia, Gästrikland, Hälsingland, Medelpad, Ångermanland, Västerbotten, and Norrbotten, as well as the inland ones of Härjedalen, Jämtland, and Lapland.

Americans of Swedish birth are, as a rule, especially conscious of their native provinces. The largest contingents came from Småland, Skåne, Västergötland and Värmland, but even Sweden's smallest or least populous provinces, such as Dalsland, Härjedalen and Öland, are represented.



O Värmland, thou lovely, thou glorious land . . ." Many famous poets and other writers, including Esaias Tegnér and Selma Lagerlöf, were born in this province. It was also the birthplace of Captain John Ericsson, who was buried there, and of more than one hundred thousand other American immigrants. Today Värmland is noted not only for its beautiful white churches and manor houses but also for its modern forest, metal, and other industries. Its capital, Karlstad, is often called the "Sunny City."

HISTORY .

Sweden's prehistoric period, known only through the studies of naturalists and archaeologists, covers about ten thousand years, ending with the Viking Age, 800-1050 A.D., when the Norsemen roamed the seas as traders and adventurers. Via the Baltic and the rivers and lakes of Russia, the Vikings of eastern Sweden established trade routes to the Near East. This era came to an end when Christianity was introduced in the North.

At that time Sweden did not include the three southern provinces, which were Danish, and only at present-day Gothenburg did a small strip of Swedish land reach the North Sea. Finland, on the other hand, was then Christianized and incorporated with Sweden. Around 1400 an attempt was made to unite the Northern nations in one kingdom, but this led to bitter strife between the Danes and the Swedes and finally to Sweden's independence as a national state under Gustaf Eriksson Vasa (1496-1560), a nobleman who was elected king in 1523.

Gustaf Vasa and his grandson, Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632), are regarded as the greatest leaders who ever sat on the Swedish throne. During the Thirty Years' War the latter was killed in a battle in Germany, but by then Sweden had become one of the leading military powers of Europe. Its attempt to build an empire around the Baltic, which had begun about 1580 with the annexation of Estonia, proceeded with the acquisition of some northern German territories through the Westphalian peace treaty of 1648. Ten years later Denmark was forced to cede its provinces on the Swedish mainland.

King Charles XII (1682-1718) spent his entire reign in wars with Denmark-Norway, Poland, and Russia. Though he was at first highly successful, his invasion of Russia ended in failure. After his death in defeat, Sweden lost its Baltic provinces. An era of cultural advancement and political experimentation followed. In 1809, Russia forced the surrender of Finland too. Led by the first Bernadotte (1763-1844), a French Field Marshal, who had been elected heir to the throne in 1810, Sweden next joined in the war against Napoleon, the main result being that his ally, Denmark, yielded its control over Norway. The subsequent Swedish-Norwegian union was dissolved by mutual agreement in 1905. The intervening period in Sweden's history may seem uneventful because of its unbroken peace, but it brought far-reaching internal changes.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sweden's principal natural resources are farmlands, forests, iron mines, and water power. A material of great potential significance is uranium. There are no known deposits of either high-grade coal or oil, and such fuels, therefore, have to be imported. For many years Sweden's consumption of petroleum products, per head of population, has been exceeded only by the United States, Canada, and Venezuela. The Swedish requirements continue to grow.

The fuel situation and the import problem in general can be met only by large and expanding exports, which enable the Swedes to buy abroad what they need at home, and, partially, by the continued development of domestic power resources. In exports, Sweden's greatest asset is its forests, which provide the raw materials for the country's leading export articles. The woods, with evergreens predominating, cover about two-thirds of the land area, not including the largely barren mountain regions of the north.

Sweden's rich supplies of iron ore are also of great importance to both its domestic economy and foreign trade. The largest deposits, those in the northern section of Lapland, were not developed until the turn of the current century. Much earlier, smaller fields had been found in a belt extending through the provinces west of Lake Mälaren. There commercial mining began in the thirteenth century. Other ores, most of them in the north, yield modest amounts of copper, lead, silver, gold, etc.

Water power is another cornerstone of Sweden's economy. While industry is, by far, the largest consumer of such power, all the main railroads are now electrified and practically all homes have electricity. This results in an annual saving of millions of tons of imported fuels. The time when all readily available water power will be harnessed is, however, already in sight, and Sweden therefore is determined to exploit fully its potential resources in atomic energy. Extensive uranium-bearing shale deposits are its largest known power reserves.

The farmland remains a most valuable basic asset. For many years about 10 per cent of the entire area was cultivated. Today this acreage is slowly shrinking as a result of the continued modernization of the farming industry and the reforestation of land that is not fertile enough for profitable tillage.



1: In the far north of Sweden are some of the world's richest iron mines, and here an ore train is returning from the main shipping port, Narvik, in Norway. The mountain formation in the background is known as the "Lapp Gate."
 2: Skåne, the southernmost province, is called "Sweden's granary."
 3: Succulent North Sea fish is delivered each morning by smacks and trawlers in Gothenburg's fish port. Sweden has about 10,000 professional fishermen.



ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE

While the Swedish government takes an active part in economic affairs in order to maintain a balanced growth, free enterprise is the main propulsive force. Without the sustained application of private initiative the country would not have become as highly industrialized and commercially vigorous as it is today. As in the United States and Canada, small industry occupies a significant position. Of about 25,000 Swedish factories and workshops, more than half have only ten workers or less. Big business, on the other hand, is by no means absent. Some large corporations have roots that go far back in history, one of them being rated as the oldest stock company in the world.

In the entire Swedish manufacturing industry there are only a few exceptions from the rule of private ownership and management. The single publicly owned steel mill, situated in the far north, was built partly to provide local employment. Private mills account for over 90 per cent of the country's steel production. Many of them also operate iron mines of their own. The large ore fields in Lapland, which are publicly owned, were discovered on land that had been so-called Crown property ever since the sixteenth century.

The shipping industry is wholly private and does not receive any kind of subsidies, either open or disguised. Government ownership is, in fact, largely limited to railways, telephone, telegraph, radio and other public utilities. While the largest power plants were built by the government, about one-half of the total production of electricity comes from private sources. The revenue-producing tobacco and liquor monopolies were established many years ago by Conservative governments.

Of Sweden's retail business, by far the greater part is in private hands. The consumer cooperative movement, the largest single retail organization, accounts for about one-fourth of all food sales, while its share in other retail trade is around seven per cent. Both cooperative and private enterprise have made great efforts to achieve maximum efficiency in distribution. Self-service stores, for instance, are more common than in any other European country. The consumer cooperatives too are staunch supporters of the principle of free competition and have no political affiliation. Their manufacturing plants employ about four per cent of the country's industrial labor force.

LABOR AND MANAGEMENT

Sweden's usually harmonious labor-management relations are an important feature of its economic system, which may be described as free-enterprise capitalism moderated by social aims and standards. Both workers and employers are highly organized. The Confederation of Trade Unions is the largest organization in the country, and in relation to population it is the biggest free labor federation in the world. Salaried employees too have a national organization. Most industrialists belong to the Employers' Confederation.

In Sweden the industrial revolution did not result in the usual social upheavals. One reason was that it came late, when the standard of public education was already comparatively high. The geographic distribution of the nation's natural resources, moreover, did not favor the growth of great industrial centers but forced many industries to locate in rural areas. Labor relations marked by mutual understanding, on the other hand, were by no means achieved without bitter experiences. A furious battle was fought in 1909, when a general strike was declared to counter a series of lockouts. During the next few decades open conflicts were common, as the two factions gradually gained in strength. Then, after comprehensive discussions in 1936-38, the trade unions and the organized employers reached an epochal agreement which laid the groundwork for relations based, above all, on close mutual contacts, self-government, and group responsibility without government interference. This was followed by a series of specific pacts, dealing with industrial safety, vocational training, time and motion studies, and joint labor-management committees which serve as channels for the exchange of information within the individual firms.

While the delegates, as a rule, drive hard bargains in wage negotiations, they do not easily lose their sense of a fundamental community of interest. Strikes and lockouts may still occur but have become rare. In many years the number of working days lost because of such conflicts has been smaller than in other countries with free trade unions. A special tribunal, the Labor Court, which was established officially in 1928 to settle disputes concerning the application and interpretation of contracts already in force, has also done much to pacify labor relations. While at first opposed by organized labor, it has been resorted to more frequently by the workers than by the employers.

Corner of the reference library
one of the schools run by the
Confederation of Trade Unions.
The Swedish labor movement has
always emphasized education. 2:
Mural in a chocolate factory near
the capital shows artist's concep-
tion of central Stockholm.



SAVINGS AND BANKING

The present rate of saving in Sweden is high, both as compared to the past and according to international standards, but the question of how to obtain an adequate formation of capital is nevertheless one of the country's greatest internal problems. This is largely due to the rapid technological advances and continued modernization of both production and distribution. Then comes the constant demand for modern housing, more and better schools, hospitals, highways, etc., and relatively large defense expenditures. In recent years total investments of different kinds have amounted to about one-third of the national product, compared with one-fourth in the nineteen-thirties.

The growth of Sweden's economy during the first decades of this century was greatly facilitated by close cooperation between industry and the leading commercial banks. Today all big corporations rely more on self-financing out of retained earnings, but the banks constantly extend credits for industrial as well as for commercial purposes. Construction and real-estate loans are also important. Such banking operations are carried on by sixteen institutions with a total of more than one thousand branch offices. All these banks are privately owned and managed, except one which serves the administration and its agencies.

The savings banks number about 450, operating altogether 1,300 offices. They are all local and play a leading part in the financing of existing dwellings by mortgage loans. Concerted efforts to promote thrift include the presentation of a passbook with a small deposit to all newborn children, as well as close contacts with schools and educational organizations. All passbooks can be used for deposits or withdrawals in any savings bank. Saving through life insurance is also important, two such policies per household being the national average. A postal savings bank was established in 1884, and payments can be made via a postal check service.

Like the Federal Reserve Banks in the United States, the Bank of Sweden, or Riksbank, has exclusive power to issue notes. Its official discount rate generally determines the interest level throughout the country. The directors are elected by the parliament, while the government appoints the chairman. The Riksbank, which dates from 1668, is the oldest existing bank in the world.

INVENTIONS

Sweden was not an easy country to develop; the people's technical resourcefulness and inventive skill were often derived from a pressing need.

An early mechanical genius was Christopher Polhem (1661-1751), whose devices improved numerous products made of iron. In the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth various Swedish inventors laid the foundation for industries that have since achieved international renown. Gustaf de Laval (1845-1913) designed a new kind of steam turbine and later revolutionized the dairy industry by his centrifugal cream separator. The same principle is now applied in oil refining. Lars Magnus Ericsson (1846-1926) developed a modern telephone system, and Jonas Wenström (1855-93) was one of the inventors of the three-phase alternating-current system, the basis of long-distance transmission of electricity. At about the same time Carl Edvard Johansson (1864-1943) created precision gauges which became indispensable in machine industries and gained extensive application in American motor production. Utmost precision was also the main goal of the activities of Sven Wingquist (1876-1953), whose principal contribution was the self-aligning ball bearing. After this invention, made in 1907, the world's output of ball and roller bearings gradually increased from 10,000 to several million a day. In 1912, Gustaf Dalén (1869-1937) received the Nobel prize in physics for his automatic beacons and light buoys. Other Swedish inventions range from the high explosives of Alfred Nobel (1833-96) to new refrigerating systems, machines and methods in the manufacture of matches, cellulose, steel, etc. Today, most such advances are due to systematic research and persistent teamwork.

Thousands of inventions and technical improvements have been made by engineers of Swedish birth and education working in the United States. Captain John Ericsson (1803-89), of "Monitor" fame, was the first to demonstrate the superiority of the propeller over the paddle wheel, and he was also a pioneer in solar-energy research. Many such American inventors have been graduates of Swedish institutes of technology. An outstanding example is Ernst F. W. Alexanderson (born 1878), holder of more than three hundred U. S. patents, and credited with achieving the first home reception of television.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

In recent years it has often been emphasized in Sweden that scientific research is at least as important to a country as natural resources. Well-established research organizations are active in spheres ranging from plant breeding to medicine. The government extends financial support on an increasing scale, not only directly to the universities and similar institutions but also through special councils that were set up in the nineteen-forties. Private initiative and generosity have also been and are of the greatest assistance. Approximately one-half of all research concerning the natural sciences and technology is, in fact, financed by private industry or private foundations.

Such foundations for the promotion of science and culture total about four hundred, and many of them have contributed to basic research as well as to higher education. The largest, and one more heavily endowed than the internationally famous Nobel Foundation, is the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, established in 1917 by a prominent Stockholm banker and his wife. Names of other donors are attached to such centers as the Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology in Stockholm and the Gustaf Werner Institute for Nuclear Chemistry at Upsala, and to the recently created Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation.

Sweden's traditions in the field of science have strong roots going back to the eighteenth century. The chief pioneers were Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772), who anticipated the findings of modern research in many fields, and Carl von Linné, or Linnaeus (1707-78), founder of modern botany. Other outstanding names are those of Torbern Bergman (1735-84), who made epochal contributions to chemical analysis, and Carl Wilhelm Scheele (1742-86), a humble druggist, who discovered oxygen and several other elements. Some fifty years later the leading figure in the chemical world was Jöns Jakob Berzelius (1779-1848), who did pioneer work in atomic-weight determination and proposed the present system of chemical nomenclature. Many elements were first isolated by him; thorium, for instance, one of the two principal elements from which atomic energy can be derived by fission, he named for Thor, the old Norse god of war. In 1903 another chemist, Svante Arrhenius (1859-1927), became Sweden's first Nobel prize winner.

FARMING

Up-to-date agricultural methods enable the Swedish people to produce most of the food they need. Crop yields have been raised substantially as a result of improved drainage, scientific crop rotation, and generous fertilizing, together with the use of better seeds obtained by constant plant breeding. In the southernmost districts the wheat yield per acre is more than twice that of countries using the extensive farming methods, such as the United States and Canada. The other main bread crop is rye. Sugar beets are cultivated in the south and some oil-producing plants both there and in the central provinces. In the country as a whole, however, milk production holds the leading position, accounting for about 40 per cent of the farmers' income. For meat and pork the figure is 30 per cent.

Mechanization has played a vital part in the modernization of farming. Tractors today number about 150,000, compared with 20,000 at the end of World War II. Harvester combines, which twenty years ago were very rare, now take care of about one-half of the harvest of bread grains. In the mechanization of milking too, Sweden has gone farther than most other countries. During the last decade the farm population has decreased by about one-fourth, while the production volume has remained practically unchanged.

Today Sweden's agricultural policy actually does not aim at a larger output, but rather at organization changes that will eliminate present surpluses and, together with a continued improvement in production methods, make farming more profitable. More meat and less dairy products is one of the goals. Farms range in size from large estates to quite small units which are insufficient to support a family and whose owners, therefore, combine agriculture with other occupations, chiefly forestry. In recent years many small farms have either been abandoned or combined into larger homesteads of at least 25-50 acres, a development that is encouraged by the government. Like grain production, animal husbandry tends to become more and more specialized.

About 90 per cent of all agricultural production is processed and marketed through the farmers' own cooperative associations. Of what consumers spend on food produced in Sweden — corresponding to the "consumer dollar" in America — the farmers get about 65 per cent, a relatively high share.



1: Log driving in the Dal River, n
artery of the province of Dalarna
the most southerly of the great stre
that empty into the Gulf of Both
2: Powerhouse of Sweden's sec
largest hydroelectric plant, situa
north of the Arctic Circle. Like m
others, it was blasted out of gra
bedrock.

POWER DEVELOPMENT

In relation to population Sweden's output of electricity is practically the same as that of the United States, but not as large as Canada's. While a major part of the American production is based on steam, the Swedes obtain around 95 per cent of their electricity from water power. All large plants, whether private or public, are linked together, so that a surplus of energy in one region is always available wherever shortages occur. Only about fifty of the country's more than one thousand hydroelectric plants are owned by the government, but these produce nearly one-half of the total yield.

Low electricity rates are of fundamental importance to Sweden's industrial interests, and its power experts have made a long series of advances in reducing costs. For decades all larger power plants have been constructed underground, where they can operate effectively throughout the year. The largest station, Stornorrfor, which was opened in 1958-59, has been described by foreign visitors as "one of the most fabulous underground construction feats performed by man." Its generators and turbines, products of Swedish industries, are the most powerful made anywhere so far, and the reason they were built is that large-sized generating units had proved to be the most economical. Since most of the important waterfalls are in the north, the power has to be conveyed over long distances. A significant step forward, therefore, was long-distance transmission at 380,000 volts, the first of its kind. Another recent advance was an underwater cable to the Baltic island of Gotland, based on a new system that was later adopted for the transmission of electricity under the English Channel.

The public power agency has contributed greatly to the development of electricity in Sweden and it also takes an active part in the atomic-energy program. The leading concern in the latter field, however, is the Atomic Energy Company, owned jointly by the government, which holds four-sevenths of the stock, and a large number of industrial corporations. Sweden's first research reactor was started in 1954, and others followed five years later. The first industrial atomic-energy unit, designed for the production of both heat and electricity, will be completed in 1962. Swedish nuclear research is also concerned with hydrogen fusion and the taming of its power. The country participates actively in international cooperation regarding atomic-energy research and development.

FOREST INDUSTRIES

If managed as at present on a sustained-yield basis, the Swedish forests will be inexhaustible as a source of raw material. Forestry is therefore a permanent division of the national economy. Cutting and conservation are governed by law. For many years about one-third of the annual growth has been left uncut, and thus added to the capital. The productive area is constantly expanded and improved by the drainage of marshes and bogs, seeding, afforestation, replanting, and thinning. About one-half of the forests belong to private individuals, while the other half is equally divided between industrial companies and the government.

Because of the country's northerly situation pine and spruce trees mature slowly, but this is compensated by a correspondingly high quality. Around 250 million trees are felled every year. At low cost the numerous rivers and streams in the northern and north-central provinces carry more than one-half of that total from the forests to the saw and pulp mills along the coast. This unique logging network has been of the greatest value to the development of the timber industry, but today it is losing somewhat in importance. Log driving is time consuming, and even in the northern forests motor transport is increasingly used. All forest work is becoming more and more mechanized.

From the middle of the nineteenth to the beginning of the twentieth century sawn and planed lumber was Sweden's foremost export article. Since then the emphasis in production has shifted, first, to cellulose and then, in part, to paper and board. While Sweden produces less than ten per cent of the world output of cellulose it is the leading exporter of it, accounting for approximately one-fourth of such pulp sold on the international market. Its exports of paper for sacks and wrapping are likewise larger than those of any other country. Rayon, cellophane, and plastics are also made from cellulose, and new chemical products are developed by scientific research. Lumber, however, continues to be an important export item, and it is often shipped in highly developed forms, such as prefabricated houses and their components.

About 60 per cent of Sweden's forest output is exported, and such sales abroad account for around 40 per cent of the country's total revenue from exports. Sweden's own paper consumption is, per inhabitant, the highest outside America.

MINING AND STEEL

Sweden produces annually around 20 million tons of iron ore, or five per cent of the world output. About nine-tenths are sold abroad, and these shipments represent approximately one-fifth of world exports. The lack of coal prevents large-scale local processing.

For about fifty years the mines in northern Lapland were operated by a privately managed company, owned jointly by the government and a big industrial corporation. In 1957 the government used an option dating from 1907 to become practically the sole owner, as well as responsible for the management. This is the only nationalization of an important natural resource or industry that has taken place in Sweden in modern times. Today the Lapland ore is shipped abroad in close cooperation between the publicly controlled mining company and the government's former private partner, which owns a large fleet of ore carriers. On a railroad that was built by the government around 1900, long ore trains, hauled by powerful electric locomotives, run northwest throughout the year to the always ice-free port of Narvik in Norway, and in summer and autumn also southeasterly to the Swedish port of Luleå on the Gulf of Bothnia. The largest mining center is the completely modern city of Kiruna, 90 miles north of the Arctic Circle. These industrial activities in northernmost Sweden have been described as one of civilization's most successful thrusts into the arctic region.

Steelmaking, based primarily on ores found in the central provinces, has a more dramatic past than any other industry in Sweden. In the seventeenth century Swedish charcoal-smelted iron achieved wide fame, and the country became the world's leading producer of the metal. With the discovery of new and cheaper methods of smelting with coke, that position was gradually lost. At times the Swedish ironmasters seemed ready to give up. Instead, they managed to reorganize their mills by adopting and developing new processes. Being made without a supply of domestic coal, their achievements were, in fact, unique. Today Sweden's share in world production is only one per cent, at most, but its special steels still enjoy a high international reputation. Many tools and devices, such as rock drills and springs for watches and compressor valves, depend upon the purity, dimensional accuracy, and fatigue resistance of Swedish steel.

ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

Firms making things out of metal form Sweden's largest manufacturing group. They account for about one-third of the total processed output. Their products range from small tools and fine instruments to aircraft, automobiles, motor ships, and heavy machinery. Many of them are based on inventions or improvements made by Swedish engineers. The country's advanced industrialization is, in fact, largely due to its high standards in engineering. These, in turn, are closely connected with the old traditions of ironmaking and the fact that Swedish steel of the highest quality has been available since the beginning of the machine era.

About one-fourth of the production of metal goods is exported. Many highly specialized firms actually sell the bulk of their wares abroad. Swedish metal articles thus contribute to economic advances and the raising of living standards nearly all over the world. Swedish ball bearings, for example, are used in machinery and rolling stock in almost all countries. Steam turbines of Swedish construction serve more than forty nations, and hydro-electric equipment of the same origin has been installed in many distant lands. Swedish rock drills, driven by compressed air, are internationally used in the construction of tunnels, ship channels, etc. Navigation on all seas is aided by automatic lighthouses based on a Swedish invention, and some fifty countries have automatic telephone exchanges of Swedish construction. The metal exports from Sweden include motor vehicles, ships, locomotives and other railway rolling stock, engines, calculators and adding machines, cream and oil separators, refrigerators, sewing machines, sporting rifles, camp stoves, machine tools, and equipment for the forest, match, tobacco, and other industries.

Swedish shipbuilders specialize in cargo-carrying motor vessels and tankers. Their labor costs are the highest in Europe, but they have been able to hold their own thanks to a constant application of advanced construction methods and other technical improvements. Today, their annual production capacity is about 800,000 gross tons, compared with 200,000 in 1939. Three of the Swedish yards are among the world's largest.

While Sweden's engineering plants are seldom outstanding in quantity production, their manufactures have gained a reputation for precision, efficiency, and durability.



1: Sweden's leading jet fighter, the delta-wing "Draken," or "Dragon." It is built at Linköping in the province of Östergötland. 2: Motorcars lined up for shipment to America on a pier at Gothenburg, Sweden's chief port and shipbuilding center.



FOREIGN TRADE

A flourishing foreign trade is vital to Sweden. The country's high degree of industrialization and steady economic advances make heavy imports necessary, and these can be maintained only by corresponding exports. A certain import surplus, however, is regarded as normal, the difference in the balance of payments being made up by income from shipping and other "invisible" exports.

In proportion to population, Sweden's exchange of goods with other countries is among the highest in the world. About one-fifth of its total production is sent abroad. The nation, therefore, must always be careful to maintain or improve its competitive capacity. The fundamental soundness of its position is proved by the fact that the Swedish tariff level has long been one of the very lowest.

Imports consist first of liquid fuels and coal; next come agricultural products such as fats, tropical fruits, coffee and tobacco; then machinery and instruments, steel, copper and other metals, cotton and wool, and transport equipment. Among the exports those of forest products rank first, followed by machinery, motor vehicles, ships and other metal manufactures, iron ore, and quality steel.

Great Britain and West Germany are Sweden's foremost trade partners, followed by the United States. Traditionally the country buys from America much more than it sells, but its exports have increased in recent years. The exchange of goods with Canada now shows a small export surplus. A lively trade is carried on with the Scandinavian neighbors, as well as with the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. In 1958 Sweden's commerce with Russia, Poland, China, and other Communist-governed areas constituted less than four per cent of the total. Trade with countries outside Europe now amounts to approximately twenty-five per cent, compared with four at the beginning of the century.

Sweden's industry is therefore closely integrated with the world economy. Its interests call for a system of commerce which allows each country to buy in the most advantageous markets and to sell wherever its goods are in demand. From the beginning the country was an active member of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, and it has participated in a series of efforts to attain a higher degree of economic integration, as a contribution to the development of a freer trade everywhere.

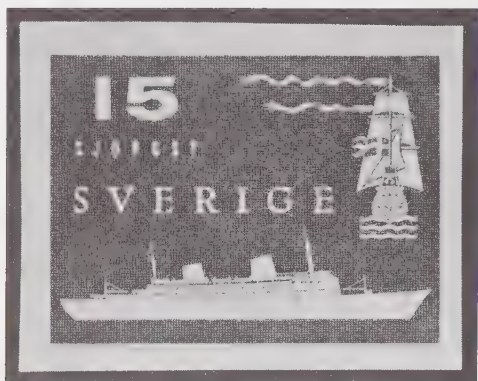
SHIPPING AND AVIATION

While, geographically, Sweden is part of a peninsula, from an economic viewpoint it comes close to being an island. Practically all of its foreign trade, even that with Finland, is seaborne. The Swedish ore transports in the far north constitute the only large-scale movement of goods by road or rail across the Norwegian border. The city of Trondheim, farther south than Narvik on Norway's Atlantic coast, has a greater potential as a port of transit for Swedish imports.

The Swedish industrial revolution, which gained momentum as late as around 1870, was followed in the early twentieth century by another basic economic development which helped advance the country's foreign trade. Between 1904 and 1914 direct shipping lines were opened, first to South America, then to South Africa, Australia and the Far East, a few years later to North America, and finally via Panama to the West Coast of both Americas. Since then all such direct services have been greatly expanded.

During World War II over a third of the Swedish merchant marine was lost, but today the total is more than twice the prewar figure. In relation to population, only Norway has a larger tonnage, not counting "flag-of-convenience" countries. The bulk of the Swedish fleet consists of modern motor ships, that are noted both for high speed and for superior design and equipment. Most of these, representing around 70 per cent of Sweden's commercial tonnage, are engaged in traffic that never touches their home ports. They earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange, which virtually covers the country's adverse trade balance. The merchant marine is, therefore, an indispensable part of the nation's economy. For several years less than half of the trade flowing to and from Sweden has been carried in Swedish bottoms.

In commercial aviation Sweden cooperates closely with Denmark and Norway. After World War II the three countries pooled their aviation resources and formed Scandinavian Airlines System, today one of the world's leading air carriers with routes all over the globe. A pioneer in polar-region aviation, SAS opened in 1954 an arctic route between California and Scandinavia, and in 1957 one between Scandinavia and Tokyo via the North Pole and Alaska. Inside Sweden, SAS and an affiliated company serve twenty-five cities. Jet planes were introduced by SAS in the beginning of 1959.



1: Stamp commemorating the ancient postal communications between Sweden and America, established in 1638 by Swedish sailing vessels. The modern ship shown is the new "Gripsholm" of the Swedish American Line. 2: 20-kronor air mail stamp, regarded as one of the most beautiful issues of the Swedish Post Office. Today SAS is one of the world's leading carriers of air mail. 3: All of Sweden's some four thousand railroad stations are brightened by a garden spot of some kind.

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The growth of automobile ownership in Sweden is spectacular evidence of a steady rise in living standards. In 1950-58 the number of passenger cars increased nearly fivefold, resulting in the highest automobile density in Europe. While automobiles, including buses and trucks, today total more than a million, the number of motorcycles of various types is not much smaller. Ordinary bicycles are still widely used.

American motorcars are well known and often seen, but most people drive the smaller Swedish and other European types. Transportation by trucks has assumed great importance, domestic and American makes being especially popular. Hard-surfaced roads are not as common as in the United States, but great efforts are made to improve all highways. Sweden, like England, still has left-hand driving.

The building of railroads in the nineteenth century spearheaded Sweden's modernization, and while now subject to sharp competition, their transportation facilities remain vital. The Swedish State Railways employ more people than any other enterprise in Scandinavia. Nearly 90 per cent of all railroad traffic is hauled by electric power, and the electrified network is the most extensive in the world. The longest wholly electrified line in existence runs from southernmost Sweden to Narvik far above the Arctic Circle in northwestern Norway, a distance of nearly 1,400 miles. Narvik, located not far from the Swedish border, is also the northern end station for the State Railways' eight-day "Sunlit Night Land Cruises," that have become greatly popular among American tourists. The main transportation business in the far north, however, is the shipment of iron ore.

The equipment of the Swedish railways is generally modern. All stations have a garden, with an abundance of flowers, or a little park of their own. These embellishments were begun in 1862. The State Railway officials are, in fact, Sweden's leading horticulturists.

Buses are operated by the State Railways over about 30,000 miles of regular routes, including the northernmost in the world, which takes in the North Cape in Norway. The Post Office and private companies have also built up extensive bus networks. Most of the mass passenger transportation in the cities is now handled by buses. Stockholm's transit system includes an ultra-modern subway.



Summer night in Stockholm. The City Hall, built in 1911-23, was designed by Ragnar Östberg, and many Swedish artists contributed to its adornment. Its both graceful and massive tower is topped by the national emblem, the Three Crowns. The famous Golden Hall is the scene of the annual Nobel banquet on December 10, and many other festive events.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In Sweden the telephone attained at an early stage a higher degree of development than in any other country, and today, in relation to population, only the United States has a larger number of such instruments. The proportion of subscribers sharing a party line, however, is much lower than in America. The telephone density in Stockholm is higher than in New York, though not quite as high as in Washington, D. C., Los Angeles, or San Francisco.

Not only local but also many long-distance calls are now handled automatically. The three largest cities have direct automatic connections, and eventually the entire system will be dial-operated. The rates for long-distance calls are the lowest in the world. A three-minute call in the daytime from the extreme south to the far north, or nearly 1,000 miles, costs 1.90 kronor, or about 37 cents. The Swedish telex system is entirely mechanized, and connections with certain other European countries are operated automatically. The telephone and telegraph as well as the telex services, which are self-supporting, are owned by the government. A considerable part of the equipment is supplied by private concerns.

The public telecommunications system is also in charge of the sound and television broadcasting facilities. The programs, on the other hand, are made up by a special semipublic corporation, known abroad as "Radio Sweden." No advertising is permitted on either radio or TV. Instead, owners of receiving sets pay an annual license fee. Over 142 sound-broadcasting stations, "Radio Sweden" sends out two simultaneous programs, including news reports, music, and educational features. On weekday mornings there is a brief religious broadcast, and every Sunday at least one complete service is transmitted from a church. In summertime the system offers an English-language program entitled "Calling All Tourists." Practically all homes have at least one radio receiver.

In the development of television the Swedish authorities at first set a slow pace, but almost the whole country will soon have access to such broadcasts, and in the early sixties the number of receiving sets is expected to reach one million. Close Scandinavian cooperation is important in this, as in many other fields, and the Swedish video system is also linked up with the European network.



King Gustaf Adolf and Crown Prince Carl Gustaf, outside the monarch's summer residence, Söfiero, situated on Öresund, the narrow sound that separates Sweden and Denmark.

Since prehistoric times Sweden has always had a king. Under its modern constitutional monarchy he remains the head of the state and a symbol of the nation's unity and continuity, but he no longer exercises any political power. When the present king, Gustaf VI Adolf, born in 1882, succeeded his father in 1950, he chose as his motto "Duty Above All." As crown prince he visited the United States twice, first in 1926, and then in 1938 in connection with the observance of the New Sweden Tercentenary. On both occasions he was accompanied by his wife, now Queen Louise, and in 1938 also by his third son, Prince Bertil, who returned in 1940, 1948, and 1958. He is second in the line of succession to the Swedish throne. First in line is Crown Prince Carl Gustaf, born in 1946, whose father, King Gustaf Adolf's eldest son, was killed in an airplane accident in 1947. The monarch is the great-great-grandson of Charles XIV, founder of the Bernadotte dynasty. Both his first wife, who died in 1920, and Queen Louise were members of Britain's royal family.

GOVERNMENT

Swedish laws are formulated by cooperation between the government and the parliament, the latter having the last word. They are administered by the government through agencies and officers enjoying a large measure of independence.

The chief executive is not the king but the prime minister, who heads the cabinet. His power depends in turn on a favorable majority in the parliament. Since the members of that body are elected by the people or its chosen representatives, it is public opinion that ultimately rules. The parliament, known as the Riksdag, is one of the world's oldest legislatures, dating from the fifteenth century. A fully democratic system in the modern sense, however, has existed only since World War I. The constitution dates from 1809, but many amendments have been made. Complete freedom of the press is guaranteed by a special law, which like other parts of the constitution can be changed only if the government and two successive Riksdags, separated by a general election, agree.

The Riksdag has two chambers, with equal power and rank. The members of the Lower House number 231, elected every four years by direct, universal suffrage. The 151 members of the Upper House are chosen by provincial or local assemblies and serve eight years. All elections are based on a system of proportional representation, under which each party wins a number of seats in proportion to the votes cast for it as a group. Landslides are practically unknown. A possible change-over to a one-chamber parliament, as well as electoral and other constitutional reforms, are being considered.

There are four major parties: the Social Democratic Labor party; the Conservatives; the Liberals, and the Center party, formerly known as the Agrarians. The Communist party, largely a dissident labor group, has only half a dozen representatives in the Riksdag. The Social Democrats are the largest party, and since 1932 they have governed almost continuously, either alone or in coalition. The four non-Communist parties often oppose each other vigorously, but their basic views are fairly similar. On economic questions the Social Democrats take an attitude far removed from doctrinaire socialism. They have had three party leaders, Hjalmar Branting (1860-1925), who became Premier the first time in 1920, Per Albin Hansson (1885-1946), and Tage Erlander (born 1901).

PUBLIC FINANCES

As government activities have steadily grown in Sweden as in other western countries, the cost of public administration and services has greatly increased. In the national budget, expenditures for social welfare are usually the largest item, followed by those, respectively, for defense and education. The social-welfare expenditure meets special needs in the form of old-age pensions, bonuses for children, health care, housing subsidies, etc. Expenditures for education include payments to the municipalities for the elementary public schools. This helps maintain an equal standard regardless of local income.

Well over one-half of the national tax revenue is derived from imposts on income and property. As in the United States and Canada, the personal income tax is progressive in rates while the corporate tax rate is the same at all levels. In addition, personal assets of most kinds are subject to a national tax, the rate of which increases somewhat as the value of the net property rises, above a tax-free base of 80,000 kronor (about \$16,000). Capital gains on securities held for more than five years and on real estate owned more than ten years are not subject to taxation. Local authorities levy taxes on both incomes and real estate, but these are not progressive. No taxpayer, regardless of income, has to pay more than 80 per cent of his earnings in national and local taxes combined. Excise duties on liquor and tobacco lead all indirect taxes, accounting for nearly one-fifth of the entire national tax revenue. In relation to national income the total tax burden in Sweden is heavier than in America. Educational and medical costs are, however, publicly covered to a much greater extent.

A fourfold increase in the national debt during World War II was due primarily to the cost of the nation's defense efforts. Following a rise of nearly 70 per cent since 1950, the debt at the beginning of 1959 amounted to about 2,700 kronor per capita (approximately \$540). Only a fraction of one per cent of the public debt is now held abroad. As a rule, the government borrows money only for productive purposes, such as new power plants and improvements in the transportation and communications systems. The authorities also take an active part in the financing of new housing, hoping to solve the problem of providing adequate dwellings at reasonable rates for the broad masses of the people.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Sweden's system of social welfare is endorsed by practically the whole nation, although some political groups have regarded the pace of reform work as too rapid. These reforms have never aimed at eliminating a sound individualism or robust self-reliance. They are based on the conviction that all citizens are entitled to a certain protection on the basis of need rather than the individual's ability to pay, and that ultimately society itself will gain by providing such care, as it does by better education.

The system includes three benefits of a general nature: 1) A basic old-age pension for everybody who reaches 67. 2) Compulsory health insurance, resulting in free care in a hospital ward, substantial refunds on private doctors' bills and prescriptions, and the payment of daily sickness benefits. All mothers receive free maternity and delivery care. While the old-age pensions absorb a considerable amount of tax revenue in addition to the compulsory contributions from all citizens between 18 and 66, the health insurance scheme is financed primarily by premium payments. Most Swedish hospitals have always been public with low charges. 3) An annual, modest but tax-free cash payment to all mothers for every child under 16.

Child and family protection includes free medical checkups and dental treatment for school children, free school lunches, housing subsidies for large families with small incomes, and a virtually free vacation trip annually for youngsters and housewives in need of such help. All wage and salary earners are entitled to an annual vacation of at least three weeks with full pay.

Another important proposal is under serious consideration: since the present social security offers only a basic old-age protection, being essentially the same for everybody, it should be supplemented by a comprehensive insurance system providing pensions in proportion to the recipients' previous income. Many citizens are already so covered by special public or private pension systems, usually connected with their employment.

Efforts to cope with such problems as juvenile delinquency and alcoholism have recently been stepped up. Strong emphasis on the aim to restore lawbreakers to normal life may be combined with tougher treatment of certain types of criminals. A liquor rationing system that had been in force since World War I was abolished in 1955. Consumption increased at first but levelled off after a few years.

EDUCATION

Without an efficient public educational system, Sweden would not have become the advanced country it is today. Part of the foundation was laid in the early seventeenth century, when a chain of secondary schools was organized and the university of Upsala, founded as early as 1477, was revitalized. Another university, that at Lund, was established in 1668. A new era in popular education was inaugurated in 1842 when elementary schools became compulsory.

While there are numerous educational similarities between Sweden and the United States, the differences are significant. As a unitary national state with a homogeneous population, Sweden has its own traditions, and current attitudes and practices differ from the American. The question, for instance, whether the central authorities should help finance education does not come up, because a very active participation has always been regarded as natural.

Except for a few private institutes, the entire Swedish school system is publicly financed, that is, by national and local taxes, and all forms of higher education enjoy government support. Many expenditures which used to be shouldered by the students are now defrayed by the government or the municipalities. Tuition fees have been abolished even at the specialized institutes of the university grade. All elementary and most secondary schools offer free text books, and free lunches are served in a great many districts. Financial aid through scholarships or favorable loans is available at all levels above the elementary. The teaching profession enjoys considerable social prestige, and salaries are regarded as reasonable.

This does not mean that private efforts play a minor part. The two youngest universities, those at Stockholm and Gothenburg, were founded by private interests, and other institutes of higher learning also owe much to such support. Adult education, moreover, is immensely important. Each year hundreds of thousands take part in study groups organized by the trade unions, farmers' associations, cooperatives, etc. Sweden's oldest correspondence school is, in relation to population, the largest in the world. Men and women of 18 or more may attend so-called folk high schools, or people's colleges, a type peculiar to the Northern countries. They have always been based on private group initiative.



1: Part of the center of one of Stockholm's newest suburbs, Vällingby. 2: Modern school architects, too, try to create accommodations that are both practical and pleasant. 3: Half-timbered old houses are typical of the southerly city of Ystad, where serene antiquity and modern life are happily blended.

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

After more than ten years of preparatory work, including studies in the United States and Britain, the Riksdag unanimously passed in 1950 a bill which will bring about much greater uniformity and certain other changes in the public school system. The new scheme was first tried out in a limited number of places, and this test will not be completed until the early sixties. All children will eventually have to take a nine-year general course. The study of English will be obligatory from the fifth year. Somewhat later a certain differentiation will begin, and in the ninth grade a division is to be made into three branches. For most pupils the final year will be devoted chiefly to vocational training and guidance, while others will prepare for the secondary schools. These will correspond, as heretofore, to the senior high schools and junior colleges in the United States. Graduation from such schools, which requires written and oral examinations directed by the Board of Education in Stockholm, the so-called "student examination," qualifies for admission to any university or a corresponding institution of higher learning.

Despite the unanimity that marked the Riksdag decision, this reform remained the subject of discussion for many years. It was often emphasized, especially by those who felt somewhat disturbed by the increase in uniformity, that the schools must offer not only education for good citizenship but also a thorough and systematic academic training. The goals of the new unified school system are, first, to give every child, without any kind of financial and social discrimination, a chance to obtain a higher as well as an elementary education, and, second, to facilitate a proper differentiation of the pupils according to their personal capacities and aptitudes. For those with practical interests and talents there is already a great variety of vocational schools. A reform that brought about greater decentralization in the school administration, by basing it more on the provincial districts and the municipalities, became effective in 1958. Increased government financial aid has not therefore meant greater central control.

The Swedish universities offer mainly graduate courses, and, as a rule, such studies lead to professional careers. Enrollments are growing rapidly. Advanced technological and special scientific training has also expanded considerably.

RELIGION

Complete religious freedom is guaranteed by Swedish law, and practically all denominations have adherents. The great majority of the people, however, belong by birth to the tax-supported Lutheran State Church, established by King Gustaf Vasa after the Reformation in the sixteenth century. Since 1952 all members have the right to withdraw without joining any other religious body, but few have made use of it. The State Church clergymen also perform certain civic functions, such as the registration of births, marriages, deaths, etc.

Church attendance is generally low, except on the principal religious holidays when most churches are filled. A group of State Church ministers have long been working for a revival, and serious efforts are made to attract larger congregations. The religious radio services, on the other hand, are even by international comparison very popular. A separation of church and state has been discussed, but the present system is firmly anchored in tradition. Many cathedrals and other churches, venerated by all, date from the Middle Ages. Since 1164, Upsala has been the seat of an archbishop, who is the Primate of Sweden. While he has no authority over the other twelve bishops, he presides, for instance, over the National Church Assembly, which has a majority of laymen. The ordination of women as ministers in the State Church was approved in 1958.

The nonconformist groups have an adult membership of nearly half a million. They are also represented on the religious radio programs. The largest independent denominations are the Mission Covenant, the Pentecostal Movement, the Baptists, the Salvation Army, and the Methodists. Roman Catholics number about 25,000, and members of the Jewish faith some 15,000.

Sweden's internationally best-known religious personalities have been Saint Birgitta, or Bridget (1303-73), who died in Rome and was then canonized, and Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772). Until his middle age Swedenborg was a natural scientist, and not until after his death was a special religious body founded in London on the basis of his theological writings. Its adherents are to be found principally in England and America. An outstanding modern church leader was Archbishop Nathan Söderblom (1866-1931), champion of Christian unity and in 1930 winner of the Nobel peace prize.

PRESS

That a free press is essential to an educated democracy is as widely realized in Sweden as in America. Under a constitutional provision any attempt at censorship is strictly forbidden. Another stipulates that every citizen has free access to all documents issued by or filed with public officials. While, inevitably, there are some exceptions to this rule, as, for instance, certain military records, the newspapers and the public have ample opportunities to follow in detail all governmental activities.

Within this framework of comprehensive freedoms and guarantees, the press has built up its own systems of self-discipline. A code of conduct, which is posted on all editorial bulletin boards, deals with possible abuses of press freedom. Publicity that violates the sanctity of privacy, for example, must be avoided. Divorce cases are never reported. A special agreement between the newspaper publishers and the typesetters' and printers' unions, in force since 1937, rules out both strikes and lockouts. It is based on recognition of the fact that "a free, democratic formation of public opinion is a foundation stone of the community."

With a combined daily circulation of about 3.7 million copies, the Swedish newspapers are comparatively somewhat ahead of the American in readership. News and business magazines, on the other hand, are much less important than in the United States. The Stockholm dailies are quickly distributed all over the country, but many provincial or local papers occupy, nevertheless, strong positions. While the Swedish press is definitely political in character, circulation figures seldom reflect the strength of the various parties. The papers representing the relatively small Liberal faction — though not always its official views — have the largest reader following. There are no syndicated columnists. Most papers, on the other hand, run a daily column giving or summarizing comments on current affairs that have appeared in other journals.

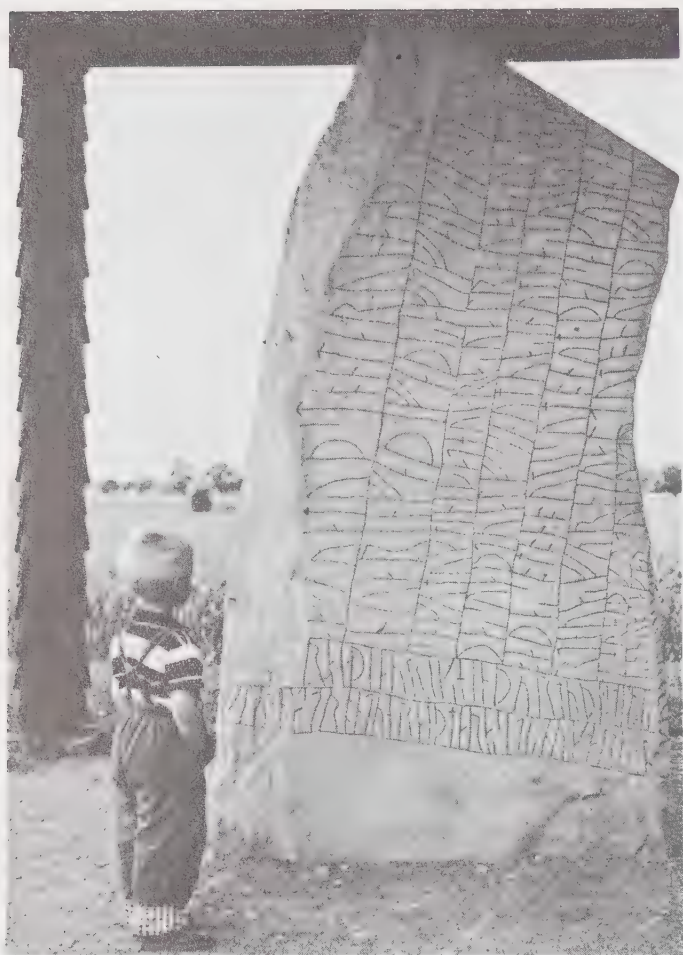
A cooperative association, known as TT, has been organized by the papers for the gathering and distribution of news. In addition, many publishers subscribe to American news services, and the largest dailies have their own foreign correspondents. All important papers devote much space to literature, art, science, etc., and contribute in this way to general education and entertainment.

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

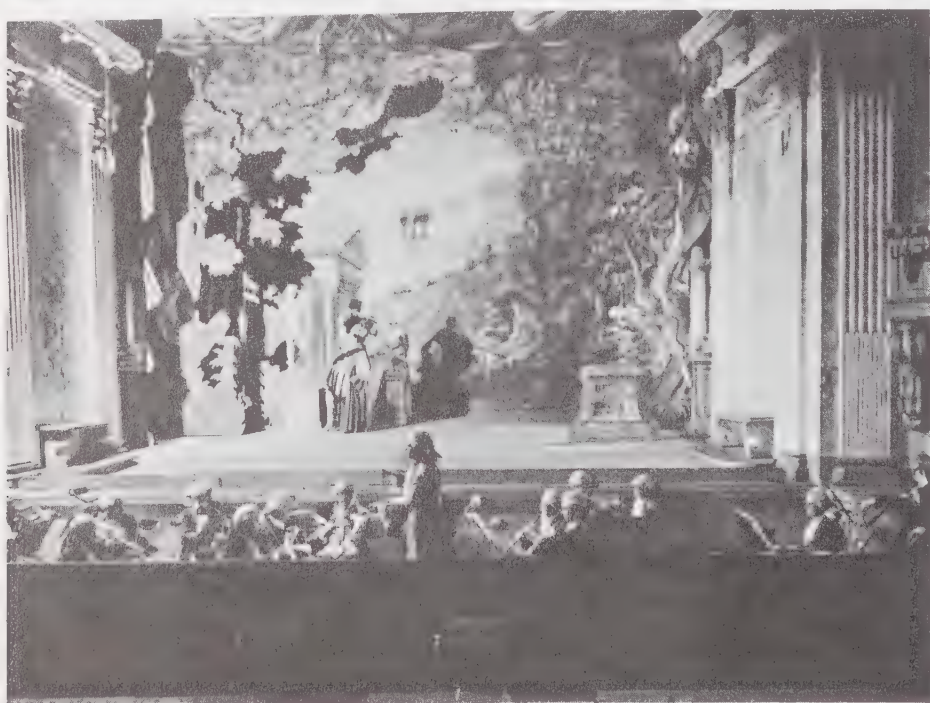
Swedish, a Germanic language like English, is spoken by the country's entire population, with certain exceptions in the far north, and also by about 350,000 people in Finland and by Americans of Swedish birth.

The oldest known Swedish writing is found on some 2,500 runestones, most of them dating from the eleventh century. Preserved medieval documents include provincial laws from the thirteenth century and the earliest national laws, dating from the fourteenth. A vigorous fifteenth-century poem, "Hymn to Liberty," still retains its freshness and popularity. In 1541, the first complete translation of the Bible gave the language a new standard of clarity and firmness. Two kings, Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632) and Gustaf III (1746-92), were noted both for their command of the language and for their interest in letters. The outstanding literary figure of the colorful eighteenth century was Carl Mikael Bellman (1740-95), poet and musician, whose at once gay and melancholy songs about life in Stockholm are still popular. Another golden age of Swedish letters came a few decades later when the forced cession of Finland to Russia in 1809 helped bring about a national revival. Its leading personality was Esaias Tegnér (1782-1846), long regarded as Sweden's foremost poet. His counterpart in Finland was Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804-77), that country's national poet, as well as one of the most prominent representatives of Swedish literature in general.

Modern Swedish writing began like a revolution with the work of August Strindberg (1849-1912), dramatist, novelist and poet, and now recognized as the greatest writer Sweden has yet produced. Selma Lagerlöf (1858-1940) was the first Swedish author to receive the Nobel prize in literature. Her novels and stories have been translated into many languages. Much of the finest in Sweden's rich contemporary production, as in that of the past, is found in the field of lyric poetry, which is generally untranslatable. Modern poets of greater significance include Hjalmar Gullberg (born 1898), Harry Martinson (1904), Gunnar Ekelöf (1907), and Erik Lindegren (1910). Living prose writers best known in America are Pär Lagerkvist (1891), Nobel laureate in 1951, and Vilhelm Moberg (1898), author of epic novels about country people and emigrants. Swedes are avid readers and many literary works, whether in prose or verse, reach impressive audiences.



1: Sweden's most notable runestone, dating from the ninth century and having the longest known runic inscription in the world, stands at Rök in Östergötland. The province of Uppland boasts more than half of all Swedish runestones. 2: Stamp honoring Selma Lagerlöf. Her geography reader for Swedish schools, "The Wonderful Adventures of Nils," became one of the world's best-loved juveniles. 3: In the intact eighteenth-century Drottningholm Palace Theatre, near Stockholm, plays and operas are given with the original costumes, scenery, and stage effects.



THEATRE AND FILM

Sweden has been described by visiting foreigners as a "theatrical paradise." Stage activities do reach the remotest corners, and actors are hardly ever out of work. The leading legitimate theatre is the Royal Dramatic in Stockholm, the national stage, founded in 1788 by King Gustaf III. Municipal theatres are constantly functioning in other large cities, and many smaller communities have their own playhouses.

A national organization that was established in 1933 as part of the educational system manages most of the touring activities, giving each winter about two thousand performances. Most of these are staged by its own actors and directors, and some in co-operation with local playhouses. At the height of the season the National Touring Theatre may present in a single day ten performances in ten different localities. In spite of the extreme cold north of the Arctic Circle, certain residents there have traveled each time more than a hundred miles to see every one of the plays given in the nearest town. In summertime extensive tours are managed by the "Folk Parks," originally established by the labor organizations but today patronized by all citizens. The Radio Theatre presents about 150 plays every year. Funds raised by public lotteries are widely used to support stage activities, and there are also municipal subsidies.

The Swedish theatre is decidedly international, giving numerous American and other foreign plays every season. Eugene O'Neill was the first American playwright to win a large Swedish audience, and his three posthumous plays "Long Day's Journey Into Night," "A Touch of the Poet," and "Hughie" had their world premieres at the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm. Strindberg has long been recognized as Sweden's greatest dramatist, and his plays are of fundamental importance. "It was Strindberg's works that, above all else, first gave me the vision of what modern drama could be," O'Neill once said.

While the ten-year period after World War I is regarded as a "golden age" in Swedish films, many recent cinema products have also won international acclaim. Fine photography, imaginative realism, and excellent acting are regarded as typical. Particularly successful young directors are Ingmar Bergman (born 1918) and Arne Sucksdorff (1917), who is also an outstanding nature photographer.

MUSIC

While in its cultural activities, as in other fields, Sweden is progressively modern, the roots of its old civilization often come to light. The country's rich store of folk music, for instance, has inspired many of its leading composers. A conspicuous example is Hugo Alfvén (born 1872), whose "Midsummer Vigil" is often heard in America under the title "Swedish Rhapsody." In 1957, at the age of nearly 85, he wrote the score for a new and successful ballet, "The Prodigal Son," based on nineteenth-century peasant art in the province of Dalarna.

A modern composer who has had several major works performed in the United States is Hilding Rosenberg (born 1892). Also noted for new styles are Lars-Erik Larsson (1908), Karl-Birger Blomdahl (1916), Sven-Eric Bäck (1919), and Ingvar Lidholm (1921). In 1958, Blomdahl wrote the music for an opera, "Aniara," based on a lyrical epic by the Swedish poet and novelist Harry Martinson and called the first operatic work of the atomic age. Sweden's greatest composer of the classical period was Franz Berwald (1796-1868).

Many cities in Sweden have their own symphony orchestras, supported in part by proceeds from public lotteries. Amateurs engaged in various forms of music number more than a hundred thousand. Group singing is also popular. Musical education has been broadened considerably. The trade unions and farmers' organizations, for example, have their own music circles.

The Academy of Music in Stockholm was founded in 1771, and among donors of support have been Jenny Lind (1820-87), the famous "Swedish Nightingale," and Christina Nilsson (1843-1921), who in 1883 sang Marguerite in Gounod's "Faust" at the dedication of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. More than a score of other Swedish opera singers have since performed on the same stage. The tradition is now carried on by such illustrious artists as Jussi Björling (born 1911) and Birgit Nilsson (1918). The Stockholm Opera, including the Royal Ballet, was founded in 1773 by King Gustaf III.

In recent years many recordings of modern Swedish music, as well as of vocal artists, have been issued in America. Paradoxically, even Swedish jazz has become popular. According to a recent poll, American fans believe that, after the United States, Sweden has produced the world's best jazz talent.

PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

Fine arts in Sweden have developed in close contact with currents in other countries, such as Germany, Italy, England, the Netherlands, and France. A flowering without parallel took place during the period 1100-1350, with its extensive building of churches. Some of the sculptures then carved by anonymous native artists on the island of Gotland are still regarded as unsurpassed. The Reformation in the sixteenth century did not result in any artistic revival, though the rulers of the Vasa dynasty often invited foreign painters and sculptors. The foremost Swedish painters of the eighteenth century were Carl Gustaf Pilo (1711-93), who long worked for the Danish Court, and Alexander Roslin (1718-93), a brilliant portraitist of the French school. The same era produced a great sculptor and draftsman, Johan Tobias Sergel (1740-1814). Among the many artists who emigrated was Gustaf Hesselius (1682-1755), who came to America in 1712. He was one of the earliest American painters. Adolph Ulric Wertmüller (1751-1811) painted several portraits of George Washington, and the one in the White House has been reproduced on a recent postage stamp.

Two of Sweden's greatest painters of the nineteenth century, Ernst Josephson (1851-1906) and Carl Fredrik Hill (1849-1911), suffered the same fate of mental illness, but during this period they created works that anticipated the expressionism and surrealism of the twentieth century. Their late, posthumous recognition contrasts sharply with that immediately accorded Anders Zorn (1860-1920), who visited the United States seven times and painted portraits of many wealthy men and women as well as of three presidents. International fame was also won by the sculptor Carl Milles (1875-1955), who resided in the United States for many years. Fountains and other works by him are found in many cities in both Sweden and America.

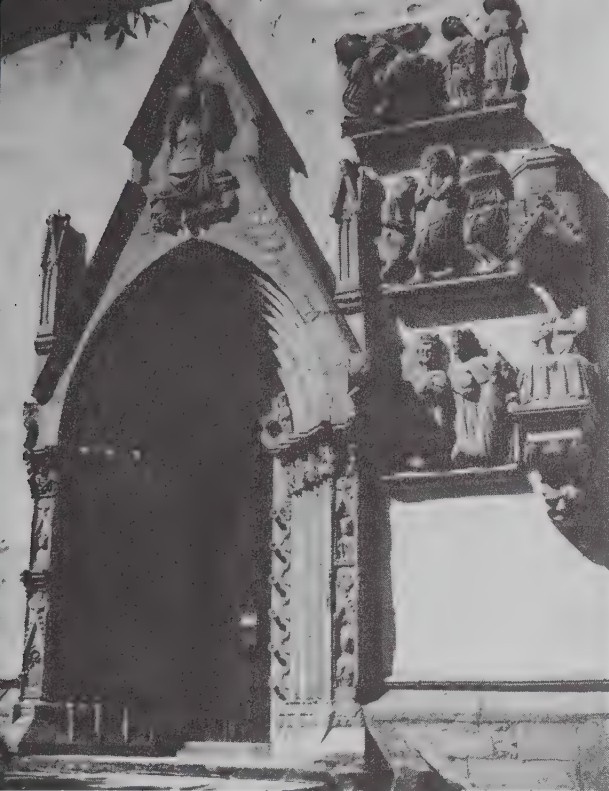
In Sweden today there is intense artistic activity. Traveling exhibits from the National Museum of Art in Stockholm and other institutes, special promotional organizations, and educational programs help spread appreciation of art, and the number of modest patrons is growing constantly. Private business concerns buy works of art for offices, factories or merchant vessels, and a public council is active along the same lines for the decoration of schools and administrative buildings.

ARCHITECTURE

Sweden's architectural traditions are represented first of all in the medieval log cabin, a later version of which was brought to America in 1638 by the Swedish colonists on the Delaware; then in the many churches, mostly simple and harmonious, that remain from the Middle Ages; next, in the austere yet beautiful castles built or rebuilt under the kings of the Vasa dynasty in the sixteenth century; after that, for instance, in baroque mansions from the seventeenth century that reflect the country's era of military power; and finally in the classic lines of the Royal Palace in Stockholm, designed around 1700 by Nicodemus Tessin the Younger (1654-1728), and in graceful manor houses from the same century.

Some of the traditions inherent in such qualities, above all in skilled craftsmanship and a feeling for the natural beauty of wood, stone, or other materials, were carried on by numerous nameless artisans and artists. Architecture of major significance did not emerge until after the industrial revolution had begun. A milestone, but also the end of an epoch, was Stockholm's magnificently romantic City Hall, designed by Ragnar Östberg (1866-1945) and completed after fifteen years in 1923. A new movement, modern functionalism as adapted to Swedish conditions, was then already stirring; it scored its first decisive victory at an exhibition in Stockholm in 1930, under the leadership of Gunnar Asplund (1885-1940). At the World's Fair in New York in 1939, the Swedish pavilion received enthusiastic praise, such as "the most civilized piece of modern architecture" and "a miracle of elegant simplicity." The architect was Sven Markelius (born 1889), who later helped design the New York buildings of the United Nations.

Modern Swedish architecture may not often deserve such comments, but its general direction is clear. Frequently recurring characteristics are simplicity and directness of design, a striving for light, and close harmony with the surrounding scenery. In recent years the traditional restraint has sometimes been coupled with a bold or playful imagination, expressed, for example, in startling color schemes or in a combination of different types of construction, especially in suburban housing. The new architecture is also applied to schools, theatres, industrial plants, stores, and other utility structures.



1: Portal of a fourteenth-century church on the Baltic island of Gotland. 2: View from the Forest Crematorium in Stockholm, designed by Gunnar Asplund. An American expert has called it "one of modern architecture's greatest buildings." 3: Main office of one of Sweden's leading shipyards, at Malmö in the south.



ARTS AND CRAFTS

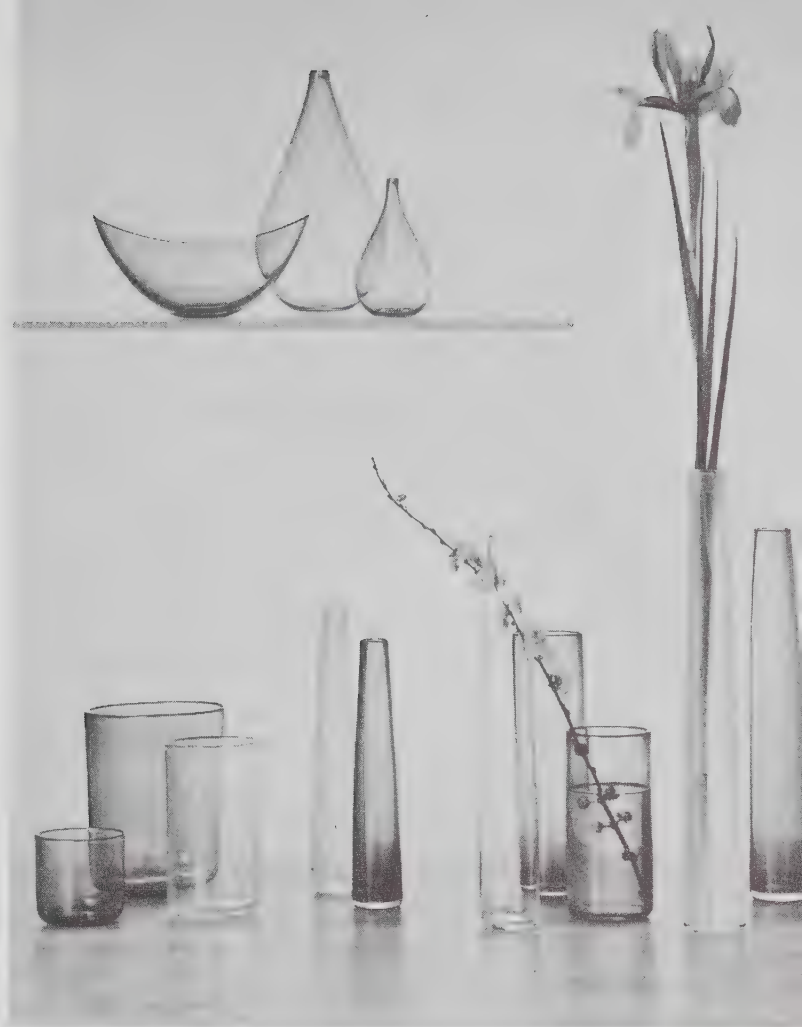
In Swedish arts and crafts the main objectives are essentially the same as in architecture, namely clarity and simplicity. Furniture must be light and have natural finishes, and is designed primarily for use and comfort; the textiles are clear in color and usually have cheerful patterns; glass and ceramics are buoyant and graceful. While artistically imaginative, Swedish household articles are never pretentious.

The new styles in decorative art were introduced before the modern revolution in architecture began. Their reputation abroad was first established at an international exhibition in Paris in 1925, when Swedish furniture, lighting fixtures, glassware, book-binding, etc., won an outstanding number of prizes. In New York the new products were first shown at a special exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum in 1927, which was repeated in Detroit and Chicago. A series of notable displays followed in the nineteen-thirties. In recent years Swedish curtain and drapery fabrics, upholsteries, rugs and other textiles have been introduced on a larger scale. "Swedish Modern," as expressed in furniture, has also found a warm acceptance on the American West Coast.

In this, as in other spheres, progress is due both to individual initiative and talent and to organized efforts, represented in the first place by the Swedish Society of Industrial Design. Founded in 1845, this body has been important in developing a sense of style and quality and in promoting close cooperation between artists and industry. Many first-rate artists help factories turn out products that are both beautiful and practical, and also reasonable in price. The workshops, as a rule, are of modest size; art glass, for example, is made by about forty relatively small glassworks, most of them situated in the province of Småland. The corresponding modern revival of the home craft movement has been led by another national association, which includes forty local branches.

Industrial design, like other art, is likely to have its ups and downs, but its present standing as a civic matter of great importance is in itself highly significant. Swedish designers and producers work in close contact with their colleagues in the other Northern countries. A joint traveling exhibit called "Design in Scandinavia" was seen in 1954-57 by more than half a million people in the United States and Canada. In the press, the objects evoked such comments as "an individualistic blending of true elegance with genuine warmth, gaiety and charm."

1: Slender crystal glass expresses a generally accepted Swedish slogan, "More Beautiful Things for Everyday Use." 2: Furniture and fixtures that bring out the natural beauty of wood, upholstery in pastel colors, and a combination of modern art and home craft are typical of many Swedish interiors.



HOUSING AND HOMES

Because of the long and often cold winters, all houses in Sweden have to be well built, and keeping them heated, mostly with imported oil or coal, is rather expensive. In the cities, therefore, a great majority of the people live in apartment buildings. Overcrowding has been a problem and still is, but the average size of family accommodations has increased considerably in recent years. The prevalence of balconies is greater than in other countries, and in summer these, filled with flowers, give an outdoor atmosphere to many city homes. The love of flowers is also demonstrated by displays inside. Modern Swedish interiors are generally clean, colorful and light, with a simple, vivacious grace.

Single-family houses are built at a slowly rising rate. Such buildings already fill many suburbs, while in others they are interspersed with apartment houses. Modern suburban developments have won high praise from foreign architects and city planners. Plenty of space, light, and sunshine around all structures is a prevailing requirement. Schools and playgrounds, buildings with facilities for recreation and entertainment, and markets and shops are an integral part of most new housing plans.

A general characteristic of Swedish homes is the number of labor-saving and other mechanical devices, such as electric ranges, vacuum cleaners, and refrigerators. All new houses and apartments have central heating and baths. The living conditions of farmers have likewise improved greatly in recent decades, and a large proportion of rural homes have modern plumbing. Servants are scarce and more and more families have learnt to manage without domestic assistance. The old tradition of hospitality, however, remains strong. The Swedish people like to entertain in their homes, the scale ranging from a rather lavish meal to a snack, or coffee with home-baked cakes and cookies. The coffee party is, in fact, more of a national institution than "smörgåsbord."

The proportion of women who work outside their homes is about the same as in the United States. While the principle of "equal pay for equal work" has not yet been fully established, no doors are closed to those who want a civilian occupation. Laws which differentiate between men and women are protective, safeguarding, for example, the expectant mother. More than one-tenth of the current parliament members are women.

FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS

No festival is more extensively celebrated by Swedish people than Christmas. The ceremonies begin before dawn on December 13, "Lucia Day," when in numerous homes, and even hotels, young girls dressed in white and crowned with wreaths of green leaves, set with candles, arouse family members or guests, serving them in bed with coffee and fresh-baked buns while singing a traditional ditty. This observance, a symbol of light in the winter darkness, is now repeated in offices, factories, etc. The high point of the holidays comes on Christmas Eve, when the social life of the nation is concentrated in family reunions. After a dinner which almost always features ham and a fish course, "lutfisk," all gifts are distributed, often by a family member dressed as a "jul-tomte," or Swedish Santa Claus. The chief attraction is a lighted Christmas tree, decorated with red apples, miniature flags, ginger snaps in the form of goblins, piglets, and stars, etc. On Christmas Day many people rise very early to attend a special church service, "Julottan." The next day is also a legal holiday, and while people nowadays soon go to work again, the Yule season does not really end until the "Twentieth Day," January 13. The intervening three weeks were the old-time farmers' annual vacation, filled with feasting and family parties.

Aside from the religious traditions, love of nature and of outdoor life marks most holiday celebrations in Sweden. Many city people from the south spend Easter skiing in the northern provinces; both Good Friday, when all theatres and movies are closed, and Easter Monday are legal as well as religious holidays. In the evening of April 30, "Walpurgis Night," which dates from Viking days, bonfires are lighted to salute the arrival of spring. The festivities, in which university students participate with special exuberance, continue on May 1, the European Labor Day, when workers' organizations stage their parades. Seven weeks after Easter comes Whitsuntide, a popular occasion for excursions and picnics. On June 6, the national colors, a golden cross on a blue ground, are honored with a Flag Day celebration. Toward the end of June, during the weekend nearest the solstice, comes the most romantic of all festivals, Midsummer, when cross-barred Maypoles adorned with green garlands and wild flowers are raised, melodious old folk tunes are played, and young people keep dancing until sunrise.



1: The Swedish Midsummer celebration begins with the raising of the Maypole. 2: Christmas at Rättvik in Dalarna. 3: Tiny steamboats cross lake-dotted central Sweden on Göta Canal. They stop at many places, including Vadstena, the city of Saint Birgitta, whose church antedates the Renaissance castle built in the sixteenth century.



OUTDOOR LIFE AND SPORTS

Sweden provides unusual opportunities for an invigorating outdoor life, and the country's economic advance has been accompanied by an enormous development of open-air recreations and sports. Hiking and cycling, often combined with camping, as well as skiing or swimming are favorite activities during vacation periods and weekends. There are no towns from which one cannot easily get out into the open country, and many city people maintain rustic retreats to which they repair whenever they get an opportunity. Sailing, too, is a popular sport.

Interest in athletic sports and exercises was greatly stimulated by the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912, when Sweden managed to win the unofficial top score. Today, one out of every four Swedes is an active member of a sports club. Outdoor track and field competitions draw larger crowds than in the United States, and most of the participants are factory, office, or farm workers; university students form only a small minority. Each autumn thousands of men and women engage in "orienteering," a kind of cross-country running through untracked forests and fields and finding checking points with the help of only a map and a compass. Later in the season, when snow has fallen, both young and old resume skiing. In recent years downhill racing has become more and more popular, but skiing still means first of all distance running. The most traditional of the numerous contests is the 55-mile Vasa Run in the province of Dalarna, which is held annually in March in honor of King Gustaf Vasa. As late as in May and June there is still good skiing in the far north, which can be continued at night under the Midnight Sun.

Both baseball and American football are practically unknown in Sweden. The most popular ball game is soccer, which has hundreds of thousands of eager followers and an officially organized betting system for the benefit of sportsfields. During the winter season it is replaced by ice hockey and Scandinavian bandy, which is played with a ball on a larger rink. Tennis has about the same standing as in America, and though golf began to make headway only recently, there are now good courses in most parts of the country. The traditional Swedish gymnastics are still compulsory in all schools, and many adults, including housewives, attend voluntary drills. This movement has contributed greatly to the comparatively high health standard of the Swedish people.



Kalmar Castle on the southeast Baltic coast was until 1658 a border fortress, guarding Sweden's common boundary with Denmark. It was therefore called the "Key to Sweden," or "Kalmar Nyckel," which was also the name of the first ship to carry Swedish settlers to America in 1637-38. The castle's oldest sections date from the late twelfth century. It was rebuilt in the 1500s. Another famous castle from that period is Gripsholm, on Lake Mälaren west of Stockholm.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Aside from Stockholm, Gothenburg and the other larger cities, the leading Swedish tourist districts are the province of Dalarna, or Dalecarlia, where many old customs are observed and richly colored folk costumes are worn on Sundays and holiday festivals; the central "lake district," which can be crossed on the quaint old Göta Canal, with its sixty-five locks; the fertile "chateau country" of Skåne, Sweden's southernmost province; the Baltic island of Gotland, with its fascinating medieval city, Visby, and nearly a hundred country churches, all built before 1350 and still in use; and, finally, arctic Lapland, which in spring is a paradise for skiers and in the summer and fall for such outdoor specialists as anglers and hikers.

No list of such areas, however, can give more than a general indication of Sweden as a tourist country. Other rewarding goals for travelers are the west-central province of Värmland, birthplace of beloved poets and other writers, and abounding in legends and romantic traditions, the rock-bound, west-coast Bohuslän, home of seafarers, whose fishing villages are popular vacation spots, and mountainous Jämtland, situated at the country's geographical center and still its most celebrated winter resort region. The southern province of Småland, for instance, may not have the same scenic appeal as the sections mentioned, but within its borders are unspoiled forest, lake, and hill districts as well as a coastal archipelago of great charm, famed glassworks, picturesque towns, and prosperous cities, such as Kalmar in the southeast corner, with one of Sweden's most impressive medieval castles. In its courtyard a "Swedish American Day" is celebrated each year on the second Sunday of August.

This is only one of the special annual events in various parts of the country that draw visitors from the other side of the Atlantic. In Stockholm, for instance, a festival of music, drama, and ballet is held early in June, and it is coordinated with similar programs in Norway, Finland, and Denmark. Each September the Scandinavian countries cooperate in a "Design Cavalcade;" shops and factories then arrange special exhibits of glassware, ceramics, textiles, furniture, etc. Under a program known as "Sweden at Home," hundreds of families are on call as hosts for visitors from other countries.

Swedish people, in turn, travel abroad on a large scale, usually spending more money than they take in on foreign tourists.

FOREIGN POLICY

The central objective of Sweden's foreign policy, like that of other western countries, is maintenance of national freedom and the democratic way of life. Unlike most of these nations, however, Sweden has a long tradition of armed neutrality as a means toward survival. This course requires both constant defense efforts and nonparticipation in military alliances.

While geographically Sweden occupies an exposed position and has been described as an outpost of western civilization, it is fortunate in many respects. Largely as a result of historical developments, its interests in regard to the rest of the world are simple and unequivocal, with no inherent causes of friction. In all directions the country has natural or at least long-established frontiers, and neither territorial ambitions nor minority problems disturb its relations with other countries.

Greatly dependent as it is on foreign trade, Sweden was beset during both World Wars by many supply difficulties. Toward the end of the first one, the food and fuel shortage became almost desperate, and the country's trade relations had to be adjusted in favor of the Western Powers. During World War II the rationing system, among other measures, functioned much better, but the strain on Sweden's neutrality often became severe. Germany, whose military power virtually encircled the country, presented endless demands, and during the first two years the Swedish government, then based on a coalition of the four democratic parties, made certain concessions that did not seem compatible with a strict neutrality. The Swedish people, however, were throughout in control of their own affairs, and were always prepared to resist an invasion, even when the odds seemed hopeless. Paradoxically, their rearmament was dependent in part on imports from Germany.

In all kinds of international activities other than military Sweden takes an active part. A long-cherished aspiration is the organization of a permanent procedure for peaceful settlement of international disputes. In 1946, by unanimous decision of the General Assembly, the country was accepted as a member of the United Nations. Contributions to European economic cooperation and a special Scandinavian collaboration are other significant phases of Sweden's foreign policy.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Sweden's neutrality, that is, its decision not to take part in a war unless attacked or subjected to coercion which amounts to violence, has nothing to do with "neutralism." It is a closely calculated policy, based above all on the nation's geographical position and its interpretation of related factors. Implied in it are unremitting defense efforts.

While Sweden has remained out of all wars for nearly 150 years, it has a long unbroken military tradition. Conscription, in some form or other, goes far back in history. During the first half of this century the country maintained a comprehensive defense establishment, including the framework of an army which in case of complete mobilization would absorb nearly one-tenth of the entire population, and a navy comprising coastal battleships and cruisers. Today, the still existing division into services has lost much of its old meaning. An all-jet air force is the most expensive part of the defense system, and the emphasis everywhere is on modern weapons, such as guided missiles, and on mobility and speed. The army units have been streamlined for the new warfare, and the navy has been made smaller, lighter, and faster. Military expenditure consumes about one-fifth of the national budget, and it is scheduled to increase by at least 2.5 per cent annually as a result of technological developments.

Sweden's industry is able to produce most of the military equipment the country needs. Nuclear weapons could be made by the middle of the nineteen-sixties, but a final decision on this question is being withheld. The current main types of aircraft are those known as "Draken," or "Dragon," an all-weather interceptor with a speed of about 1,200 miles an hour, and "Lansen," or "Lance," a fighter-bomber. Swedish antiaircraft guns have been well known abroad since World War II, when they served many of the Western Allies. In recent years, however, Sweden has purchased much military materiel, such as missiles and tanks, from other countries, principally Britain, France, and the United States.

Civil defense, including bomb shelters, evacuation plans and special training, is a vital part of Sweden's preparedness. Its granite foundations have also been utilized for all kinds of military installations, such as naval bases and airplane hangars, and factories, too, have been blasted out of solid rock.

SCANDINAVIAN COOPERATION

Collectively, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland are known as the Northern or Scandinavian countries. While they remain distinct national units, their fundamental community of interest, common political and social ideals and traditions, as well as linguistic similarities have led them to an extensive cooperation. It is being developed step by step with emphasis on the solution of current practical problems.

Relations are so close that a visitor from one Northern country to another is not strictly regarded as a foreigner. Workers may freely cross borders in search of jobs, and social-welfare measures know no national boundaries. A citizen of one of the five countries who takes up residence in another Northern land is, in other words, entitled to the same social-welfare rights as the citizens of the new country. The benefits vary somewhat among the five nations, but the pattern of social legislation is essentially the same. Many other laws, such as those relating to family and property, have also been coordinated.

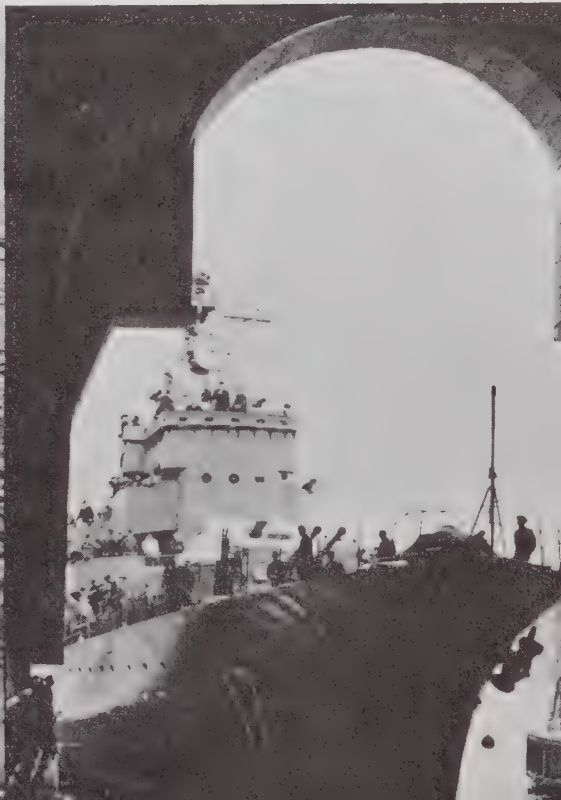
Since the early nineteen-fifties, a parliamentary assembly known as the Nordic Council meets at least once a year to discuss and make recommendations about joint or parallel actions in legislative and administrative fields. A detailed plan for a customs union or common market, which would serve about 20 millions, has been prepared. Cooperation in industrial and technical fields is constantly applied. An outstanding example of such successful teamwork is the Scandinavian Airlines System.

In 1949, Sweden offered to enter into a separate defense alliance with Norway and Denmark, but this plan had to be abandoned because of different military requirements. The Foreign Ministers of the five Northern countries, however, keep in close contact and meet at regular intervals. Corresponding relations are maintained in the United Nations and the agencies for European trade consolidation.

While the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish languages are very closely related, the Finnish belongs to an entirely different category. Swedish, however, is Finland's second official language. Modern Icelandic can hardly be understood by other Scandinavians without special studies, but the early poetry and sagas of Iceland form a part of the cultural heritage of all the Northern countries.



1: The five swans on this Swedish postage stamp symbolize the northern European nations — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. This figure of speech was first used in a Danish poem. 2: Stamp honoring Alfred Nobel, donor of the prizes. 3: Coastal commandos in maneuver. 4: Destroyer entering a harbor carved out of a mountain.



FOREIGN AID

Sweden's contributions to international relief, reconstruction, and economic development may, in part, be regarded as a consequence of its nonparticipation in the two World Wars. A growing sense of the interdependence of nations has likewise fostered a readiness to help people in need.

During or immediately after the Second World War 500,000 refugees found shelter in Sweden, and foodstuffs, medical supplies, etc., were sent abroad, in the first place to the other Scandinavian countries. Arrangements were made for feeding children of eight nations. When the fighting was over, credits for reconstruction were granted to many European countries, and relief activities were extended. Such shipments included whole villages of prefabricated houses, as well as hospitals.

Just before the end of the war in Europe the Swedish Red Cross, in cooperation with the government, undertook expeditions to Germany as a result of which nearly 50,000 civilian prisoners, representing twenty-seven nationalities, were rescued from the Nazi concentration camps. A leading role in this operation was taken by Count Folke Bernadotte (1895-1948), who three years later was assassinated by terrorists while acting as United Nations Mediator in Palestine. In Budapest many Jews were liberated by a member of the Swedish Legation, Raoul Wallenberg (born 1912), who is believed to have perished in a Russian jail.

Sweden's contribution to the U. N. action in Korea in 1950 consisted of a field hospital, which started its operations in the autumn of that year. Since then, Denmark, Norway and Sweden have jointly equipped and staffed a full-fledged hospital for the training of Korean physicians, surgeons, and nurses. In 1956, the Swedish people were greatly aroused by the armed Soviet intervention in Hungary, and the Red Cross and other private organizations, as well as the government, took immediate action to bring relief. In 1952-58 altogether 11,000 refugees under the mandate of the U. N. High Commissioner for Refugees were received in Sweden.

In the U. N. technical-assistance program the country takes an active part. Its financial contribution was increased threefold in 1959, and public opinion seems to favor larger efforts. Direct aid is given to Ethiopia, Pakistan, and Ceylon.

NOBEL PRIZES

The Nobel prizes are generally recognized as the world's highest civic honors. The donor, Alfred Nobel (1833-96), inventor of high explosives, was a member of an old Swedish family. A true internationalist, he willed the bulk of his fortune to a fund, the income from which should be divided into five equal shares to be distributed annually as prizes to those who during the preceding year had "conferred the greatest benefit on mankind" through physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, literature, and peace efforts. The management of the fund was entrusted to a special foundation in Stockholm.

According to Nobel's will, the prizes in physics and chemistry are awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science and that for physiology or medicine by the Caroline Medical Institute in Stockholm, while the Swedish Academy, founded in 1786 by King Gustaf III, has the task of selecting the laureates in literature. The peace prize winners, on the other hand, are chosen by a special committee appointed by the Norwegian parliament. The union between Sweden and Norway, established in 1814, existed throughout Nobel's life, and was not dissolved until 1905, nine years after his death. Nominations may in all cases be made by former winners and by members of certain academies and other institutions in any country; proposals for the award of the peace prize may also be submitted by government ministers and parliament members. All awards are made without regard to nationality.

The first Nobel prizes were distributed in 1901. Since then awards have gone to more than three hundred persons representing some twenty-five countries, including about seventy Americans, and to a small number of organizations engaged in peace or humanitarian work. The prizes, worth in recent years about \$40,000 each, are presented simultaneously at ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death at San Remo in Italy.

The Nobel prizes have proved important in promoting closer cultural contacts among the nations. Scientific and literary achievements as well as humanitarian contributions, for example, have become known in much wider circles than otherwise would have been the case. Sweden's own scientific activities have been greatly stimulated by the detailed and careful surveys of contemporary research required for the annual awards.

SWEDES IN AMERICA

The first Swedish settlement in America was made on a small scale in 1638 when the nation, though heavily engaged in the Thirty Years' War, founded a colony on the Delaware. From the Indians the colonists bought the land "as far west as the sunset," and their territory finally comprised nearly all of present-day Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, and parts of Maryland and New Jersey. In this area they were the first to establish farms and industries, as well as churches, schools, and law courts. Sweden lost control of the colony after only seventeen years, but continued to send clergymen until 1789. A descendant of the original "New Sweden" colonists was John Hanson (1715-83), who in 1781-82 presided over the first American Congress. John Morton (1725-77), who signed the Declaration of Independence for Pennsylvania, was another.

Toward the middle of the nineteenth century, when Sweden's population was growing rapidly while its resources could not be developed at the same pace, America became known as a new land of opportunity, and the trek of Swedish emigrants started. It was temporarily checked by the Civil War, during which thousands of those who had already arrived volunteered. One of the early pioneers was John Ericsson (1803-89), who had become an army officer and engineer before he left Sweden. In 1862 his gunboat "Monitor" halted the Confederate ironclad "Virginia," once the Federal "Merrimac," which helped assure the Union maritime supremacy. After the war the migration resumed on a much larger scale, so that during the next fifty-year period, 1865-1914, over one million Swedes, or about one-fifth of the country's population, arrived in the United States. The great majority of them were farmhands or farmers, many with families, and as a rule they brought nothing but traditions of hard work. Their principal cultural inheritance was the Lutheran faith. At first the flow was directed mainly toward the undeveloped prairies of the Middle West, but gradually it spread to many other parts of the continent. In the early nineteen-twenties, when the stream ended, most newcomers were industrial workers or engineers. Descendants of Swedish immigrants, who total several millions in the first generations, hold important positions in practically all American activities. In Canada there are about 100,000 residents of Swedish birth or descent.

RELATIONS WITH USA AND CANADA

The strongest bonds between Sweden and the United States are based on the virtual identity of fundamental ideals and aspirations, on a long history of commerce and other fruitful exchanges, and on the ties of kinship represented by the Americans of Swedish descent.

An early establishment of personal and cultural contacts with America may be regarded as Sweden's permanent gain from its attempt at colonization in 1638-55. A significant study trip to the New World was made a century later by a young Swedish naturalist, Peter Kalm (1716-79), who was a pupil of the famous Linnaeus. In 1783, Sweden became the first non-belligerent to sign a treaty of friendship and commerce with the new republic of the United States, and before long mutual trade became important for both countries. Throughout the nineteenth century iron dominated Swedish exports, and at times it constituted one-fourth of American iron imports. The exchange of knowledge and experience also grew, principally through the Swedish immigrants. They contributed greatly toward making the newer agricultural, industrial, social, and political methods of America better known in Sweden. In modern times no country has had a stronger impact on Sweden than the United States.

Today a constant interchange of ideas, products and services takes place. Study and business trips by Swedes to the United States have reached frequencies that a few decades ago would have seemed incredible, and while before World War II the annual total of American visitors to Sweden never exceeded twenty thousand, the current figure is around 100,000. Trade between the two countries has become much more diversified. Cellulose was the first to replace iron as Sweden's main export, and today America also buys machines and instruments of many kinds, motorcars, and ships, as well as special steels, furniture, glassware, textiles, etc. Since World War I, however, the United States has always enjoyed a sizeable export surplus. Its shipments to Sweden consist of fuels, machinery, transport equipment, cotton, tobacco, vegetable products, and many other items.

Sweden's relations with Canada, although less extensive, are essentially of a similar character. Direct contacts have been considerably broadened in recent years, and especially in the industrial and technological fields.

ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT

The average Swedish household spent in 1958 about 15,000 kronor (approximately \$3,000 according to the rate of exchange, though the actual purchasing power of the krona is higher than indicated). Around 3,400 kronor were paid in direct taxes and social-security premiums, leaving some 11,600 for private consumption. Of these, foods absorbed somewhat more than thirty and housing fifteen per cent. Clothing accounted for ten, other purchases and services of various kinds for about thirty, and traveling for nearly thirteen per cent. During the last few decades, outlays on motor vehicles, mechanical appliances, cameras, etc., have risen sharply.

Average hourly earnings of male industrial workers were, in 1958, 5.65 kronor. While this seems rather modest when translated into dollars, it represents a more than fourfold increase in twenty years. Prices, too, have gone up considerably during that period, but living standards of Swedish workers, like those of farmers and other groups, have improved substantially. For industrial employees the rise in 1938-58 amounted to nearly ninety per cent. Combining economic growth with stability of the price level remains a central problem.

Today the distribution of income in Sweden, as in the other Scandinavian countries, is remarkably even. Incomes are largely concentrated in the middle ranges, and actual poverty has become rare. This transformation, which in general is similar to the one in America, is still going on, being directly stimulated by the continued industrial and technological revolution. The proportions of professional workers, craftsmen, foremen, clerks, and engineers are growing at the expense of unspecialized or less skilled employees.

Per capita, and at constant prices, Sweden's national product in 1958 was more than four times as valuable as at the turn of the century. This advance was due to an increasingly efficient use of the country's human and natural resources, and to the development of a much greater exchange of goods with other countries. There is good reason to believe that, in a world at peace, similar improvement will be possible in the future. The Swedish people realize, however, that international cooperation must assume even greater importance, and that their own economic progress will largely depend on expanding markets and more active exchanges of ideas and experience.



1: Visby, on the island of Gotland. Most of its turreted, encircling wall, built in the early Middle Ages, remains intact. Gotland, which has a much longer history than its city, is regarded as a paradise for archaeologists. 2: The province of Dalarna, "Land of the Valleys," now boasts Sweden's largest steel and paper mills, but has preserved a strong flavor of the past. On Sundays and holidays many residents still wear old-time folk costumes. 3: The rocky west-coast province of Bohuslän abounds in picturesque fishing hamlets, but there are also cities with modern hotels. This scene is from Lysekil. Bohuslän was supposedly the locale of the Anglo-Saxon epic "Beowulf."



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